

was automatic delivery of propane fuel and oil for their customers, to avoid the problem of customers running out of heating and cooking fuel because they forgot to order it. That may sound academic today, but it was a new idea at the time Autore Oil began the program. The business today represents a family tradition of customer service, with children Beth McConkey and Steve and Scott Autore active in the business. Even though Ethel is supposed to be retired, you will often find her at the Autore Oil offices as well, providing her indispensable assistance.

Tony began his community service early, and it would be hard to find another person who has contributed more to Cedarville, the eastern Upper Peninsula and to Michigan. He established Cedarville Boy Scout Troop 40 and served on the board of the Les Cheneaux Education Foundation which helped students to pursue extracurricular interests in the arts, music, woodworking or other activities that kept them motivated, learning and moving forward educationally.

Tony has served on the Mackinac County Planning Commission, the Mackinac County Housing Commission, and Mackinac County Economic Development Corporation. He is a member and past president of the Cedarville Lions Club. He belongs to the Knights of Columbus, the Christopher Columbus Association and served with the Clark Township Volunteer Fire Department. As a member of the Les Cheneaux Chamber of Commerce, Tony was instrumental in hosting Michigan Outdoor Writers winter and summer conventions that brought the attention of far flung readers to the eastern Upper Peninsula's attractions.

Perhaps Tony's crowning achievement is what he has done to foster the health and growth of the Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Agency, headquartered in Sault Ste. Marie. Tony served on its board of directors for 18 years and has been treasurer of the board since 1989. He has always been willing to step in when needed, most recently as Vice Chair when that position was temporarily vacant.

The best example of Tony's hands-on, 'can-do' attitude is how he helped start a food commodity delivery program for the C-L-M Community Action Agency. His trucks and drivers traveled three counties for at least seven years to deliver food through the federal TSAP program to as many as twenty different distribution sites, free of charge, until funding came through for a paid driver and vehicle. He assisted the Agency in developing the Head Start Center which will bear his name after September 26th. Because of his work in the community, he was able to secure the use of the Cedarville Town Hall for senior meals, where they still are served today.

Over the years, the Community Action Director and staff have come to rely not just on Tony's capacity for hard work, but also on his sage counsel and advice—not a small benefit for an agency with a five and a half million annual budget.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in giving a well-deserved and heartfelt round of congratulations to a real Michigander, a devoted family man and a shining example of service to his community, which needless to say, contains many friends and admirers of Tony Autore.

READMIT TAIWAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, as the United Nations General Assembly convenes for its 58th session this week, I remind my colleagues that the Republic of China on Taiwan—a free and open democratic society and a leading trade partner of the U.S.—is still being denied membership to that world body. It is time for the U.N. to readmit Taiwan.

Taiwan not only has a thriving democracy and prosperous economy, but its 23 million people make it larger than three quarters of the existing member states of the U.N. It is hard to conceive of any good reason to continue denying such a worthy country admission to this vitally important world body.

There exists now, and has existed before, examples of parallel representation of the countries in the U.N. I speak now of East and West Germany which both held memberships in the U.N. until their reunification in 1990. Today both the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea are members of the United Nations.

Taiwan is not only a free and open democracy, a bulwark for human rights and an important player in our global economy, but it is a good neighbor to countries in need around the world. Time and time again, Taiwan has heeded calls by the U.N. and others for emergency assistance to countries suddenly fallen victims to natural disasters or war. Among others, it has assisted Afghanistan, Kosovo, Turkey, Nicaragua, El Salvador, the fight against aids in Africa, and the current relief needs of Iraq.

The 23 million people of this country—who have demonstrated in nearly every way imaginable that they are responsible citizens of the world—deserve a voice at the U.N.

IN SUPPORT OF REAUTHORIZATION OF TEA 21 AND H.R. 1789, THE AMERICAN PARITY ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, III

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call once again for reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century (TEA 21), which will expire in just over one week.

Today, the House considers a five-month extension to TEA 21. But it ought to be passing a meaningful surface transportation bill that will address measurable needs in our infrastructure, provide desperately needed jobs, and bolster our economy.

Several weeks ago, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) said that we are failing to maintain even the substandard conditions of our transportation infrastructure. It described our national roads system as "poor," and our national bridges and transit systems as "mediocre." For my home state of West Virginia, the ASCE report said more than a third of state roads are in poor or mediocre condition, and

one-fifth of the state's bridges are deficient or functionally obsolete.

This should not come as a surprise to anyone. The United States is in need of infrastructure reinvestment. The Federal Highway Administration, the General Accounting Office, and industry trade groups have clearly communicated the shortcomings in our Nation's infrastructure since last year.

Almost 30 percent of our bridges are structurally or functionally deficient, and half our interstate bridges are over 33 years old.

Of the 102,859 bridges that are part of our Strategic Highway Network, which the Department of Defense would use to mobilize against global and domestic threats, over 20,000 of them are rated as deficient.

Twenty-four percent of both our Urban Bus and Urban Rail maintenance facilities are substandard.

Highway congestion in cities with less than 500,000 in population experienced an increase of 217 percent in the years 1987 to 2000. It is worth noting that most of America resides in cities with less than 500,000 in population.

Traffic delays in rush hour traffic increase travel times by 63 percent in urban areas.

Estimates place the loss of productivity and motor fuel at \$68 billion currently, and it is expected to near \$100 billion by 2009.

Importantly, the FHWA has also noted the benefits of economic investment in our infrastructure. Every \$1 billion we invest in our highways creates 47,500 good-paying jobs at a time when unemployment levels remain unsteady, and it provides \$6.1 billion of economic activity in return, which would help restore our uneven economy.

Mr. Speaker, the FHWA said that we need to invest \$375 billion over the next six years to sustain our surface transportation system in its current condition to maintain economic growth.

However, many in Congress and the President say that we cannot afford this investment in our infrastructure, which is an investment in our present and in our future. For this reason, efforts to craft a meaningful surface transportation bill as the successor to TEA 21 stalled months ago.

Congress should not oppose investment in our infrastructure to ensure our future. We know what needs to be done, yet we are being delinquent in our responsibility to the American people by not doing it. Congress should enact a surface transportation bill as a worthy successor to TEA 21.

Meanwhile, the Bush administration tells Congress that what is needed is \$87 billion for Iraq. Furthermore, a House Budget Committee study indicates that the cost of the Iraq war and occupation could easily reach \$417 billion over the next decade.

Mr. Speaker, this reflects skewed priorities. Moreover, it raises concerns for what programs may be cut to pay for the Iraq funding.

My support for our brave troops is total, and that means they must have every resource made available to them. However, the task of rebuilding Iraq cannot be America's responsibility alone. We should draw upon the support and aid of the world community.

However, we have needs at home as I have suggested. That is why I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 1789, the American Parity Act, which would require that America's priorities be addressed with the same urgency that the administration is giving to rebuilding Iraq.

In addition to the infrastructure needs I mentioned, we suffer from having 42 million uninsured Americans and rising health costs for insured individuals, proposed reductions in Medicaid funding, insufficient funding for the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant of the National Health Service Corps, a national nursing shortage, the most far-reaching energy blackout in U.S. history, attempts to buy homeland security on the cheap, and record-level deficits.

Americans need and deserve affordable health care, capable schools, quality education, sufficient homeland security, safe and reliable roads and mass transit, modern water infrastructure, and jobs, jobs, and jobs. We won't get these things by ignoring our problems here at home.

We need to reinvest in America, first and foremost.

TRIBUTE TO ANALYTICAL SERVICES FOR BEING RECOGNIZED AS THE NASA WOMAN OWNED BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding Huntsville-based aerospace contractor, Analytical Services, Inc. for being named the 2003 NASA Woman Owned Business of the Year. ASI began operations under the strong leadership of Irma Tudor in Huntsville, Alabama with just two employees in 1992. Today 250 people work for ASI, 150 of them are from my district.

Analytical Services, Inc. provides program planning, technical writing and multimedia design and development to the Orbital Space Plane program which is managed by NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. ASI supports the OSP mission to provide a system for crew rescue from the International Space Station, and ultimately crew and limited cargo transport to and from the Station. It is also supporting the management of the design and development of a new multipurpose space transportation system for assured access to space and to provide operational flexibility for NASA.

ASI is best summarized by their company philosophy, "and then some." ASI employees are committed to these words by providing their customers with responsiveness, innovation, professionalism, and then some. ASI has a strong dedication to its community and should serve as a model for small businesses everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, today ASI Founder, President and CEO, Irma Tudor, will accept the 2003 NASA Woman Owned Business of the Year Award on behalf of all the employees of ASI. Since I cannot be there, I want to take this opportunity on behalf of the people of North Alabama, to congratulate all the employees of Analytical Services, Inc. on a job well done and thank them for their service.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1588, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the motion to instruct conferees offered by my dear friend and colleague, and fellow member of the Armed Services Committee, the Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Ciro Rodriguez.

This motion instructs the conferees on the Defense Authorization bill to adopt provisions that were overwhelmingly approved by the House when it passed the Armed Forces Naturalization Act earlier this year. These provisions would remove administrative and financial barriers to obtaining citizenship by those non-citizens who are risking their lives to defend our Nation. Thirty-seven thousand legal permanent residents currently serve in our armed forces, and their service deserves to be recognized.

The Rodriguez motion also recognizes the important supportive role that family plays and calls for inclusion of measures to ensure that when their loved ones die in the line of duty, family members will not suffer even more by having their immigration status placed in jeopardy.

After every major conflict in the past 100 years, we have granted citizenship to thousands of immigrants who fought wearing the U.S. uniform. Let us do the right thing and act now to continue the American tradition of honoring those who have proven their loyalty to our country on the battlefield. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Rodriguez motion to instruct.

TO COMMEMORATE THE BIRTHDAY, LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE LATE SENATOR CLAUDE DENSON PEPPER

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the birthday, life and legacy of the late Senator Claude Denson Pepper.

I first met Congressman Pepper in 1984 when we worked together to craft the National Democratic Platform. Even then, at age 84, his energy and passion for making life better for others was clear. During his near 90-year career, Pepper played a leading role in American politics. Pepper won vast victories for all Americans, notably our country's elderly population.

Pepper was elected to the United States Senate in 1935, where he gained the respect and friendship of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. He stayed in the Senate for 3 terms and served in the House, where he represented the greater Miami area. He served his House district for almost 30 years, becoming Chairman of the House Select Committee on Aging and of the House Rules Committee.

Claude Pepper did so much for so many, but is best remembered for his work on behalf of older Americans. He was their voice and their advocate. He led the battle to pass legislation that erased mandatory retirement laws. He authorized the bill that created the National Institute on Aging. His leadership made passage of Medicare a reality.

Near the end of his life, Chairman Pepper fought for the enactment of a prescription drug benefit in Medicare. Concurrently, he worked to enact a long-term home benefit in Medicare to assist the growing number of Americans who needed help performing essential activities of daily living in their homes. Pepper came away a few votes shy of enacting these bills, but his visionary actions shaped the path for future generations.

Pepper's life work was firmly rooted in his personal principles. His passionate advocacy and unquestionable integrity made him a role model for public servants and generations of young men and women to invest their lives in giving back to their communities.

Claude Pepper is a hero to senior citizens and all Americans, and I am proud to have known him. As Congress continues to debate the future of Medicare and other programs, we would do well to remember his legacy and his simple philosophy: "Make it better. Do all you can to make life better for others."

Thank you, Senator Pepper, for your service to our country, and for making our Nation a better place for generations of senior citizens.

CONGRATULATING P.V.'S HUT ON ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of P.V.'s Hut, which is celebrating its fiftieth year as a popular institution in my hometown of Union City, Tennessee. Over five decades, P.V.'s Hut has served millions of its famous specialty—hand-made hamburgers.

P.V.'s Hut was founded in June 1953 by Horace Aaron "P.V." and Mary Lou Peevyhouse. Their daughter and son-in-law, Sue and Jim Isbell, now operate the restaurant, but patrons know they are receiving the same exceptional service that generations of customers have received at the small diner for five decades.

When I was a young boy, my family would go to P.V.'s for twenty-five-cent hamburgers and would dine at one of the two small tables located inside the restaurant at its original location. P.V.'s Hut has moved to a larger building now and can accommodate more guests at its booths and lunch counter. The prices have also changed over the years, but patrons still travel from miles away for hand-made hamburgers and baked-from-scratch pies at affordable prices.

Mr. Speaker, as we look for ways to help our economy grow, let us take the opportunity to thank and praise those small business owners who work so hard every day to contribute to our local and regional economies. They truly make a difference, with their customer service-minded business philosophies and their dedication to the community.

Because of its founders' and owners' love for old-fashioned food service, P.V.'s Hut has